



## ABOUT THE COMMISSION



UServeUtah, the Utah Commission on Service and Volunteerism was created by state statute in 1994 and is comprised of 20 members representing local government, community based organizations and statewide networks and 6 staff. As the state's central coordinating body for service and volunteerism, the Commission is responsible for developing, implementing, and sustaining a vision and culture of civic engagement and national and community service within the state.

Since its inception in 1994 UServeUtah has focused on increasing the capacity of organizations to serve, strengthen and transform communities through service and volunteerism. It furthers its mission by: promoting volunteerism; administering National Service programs; connecting people with opportunities to serve; building organizational capacity for effective volunteer engagement; and participating in strategic initiatives that mobilize volunteers to meet local needs.

## QUICK FACTS

- In 2015, over 950,000 Utahns volunteered 193 million hours, with most Utahns volunteering in schools or mentoring youth.
- This equates to 91.7 hours rendered per resident.
- Volunteerism promotion through UServeUtah continues to impact Utah's ranking as the #1 state for volunteerism in the nation – **For 10 years in a row!**
- Volunteerism is truly one of Utah's greatest assets and is a significant natural resource that contributes to our economic strength and vibrant communities.

## NATIONAL SERVICE



This year AmeriCorps, the Domestic Peace Corps, will engage more than 80,000 Americans nationwide in intensive, results-driven service in areas of critical need. UServeUtah administers all Utah AmeriCorps\*State grants and manages the Utah program portfolio comprising 12 AmeriCorps programs that target underserved and needy populations in the focus areas of: Economic Opportunity, Education, Environmental Stewardship, Disaster Preparedness, Healthy Futures and Veterans and Military Families. In 2015 AmeriCorps programs recruited over 20,000 volunteers who gave over 219,000 hours of service with an estimated value of over \$4.9 million dollars.

In 2015 Utah AmeriCorps programs operating throughout the state engaged 1,170 AmeriCorps members. These members provided services to the homeless population, tutored and mentored youth, connected underserved populations to health care resources, cleaned and tended parks and streams, taught environmental stewardship, and operated after school programs. Since 1994, more than 14,000 Utahns have participated in the AmeriCorps programs, dedicating over 13 million hours to building up communities across the state.

AmeriCorps Programs currently operating in the state include; Utah Conservation Corps; Boys & Girls Club; the AUCH Healthcare Corps; Red Cross; Playworks; Salt Lake County Operation AmeriCorps program; Utah Campus Compact; BYU Social Work; Canyon Country Youth Corps; Mentoring for Success; and the Read, Graduate, Succeed program.

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



UServeUtah seeks to establish a strong infrastructure to support volunteers in Utah and functions as a consultant, and training resource to build and cultivate organizational capacity and increase volunteer utilization. UServeUtah also actively promotes volunteerism and is committed to creating ways for Utahns to identify and engage in quality volunteer and service opportunities. A primary aim of UServeUtah is to help organizations successfully use service & volunteerism as a strategy to fulfill their mission as well as increasing the number of highly skilled and long-term volunteers serving in Utah.

UServeUtah accomplishes this by; 1) Providing successful statewide trainings that ensure organizations are prepared to use volunteers effectively; 2) Supporting businesses in creating employee volunteer programs throughout the state; 3) Helping local municipalities recognize and utilize volunteers as an effective means of addressing community needs.

## DISASTER SERVICES



Volunteers – sometimes hundreds, sometimes thousands – show up to help after a disaster, bringing skills, energy and compassion to the relief effort. Given the limited resources available at the federal, state, and local levels, the successful integration of citizen involvement can be critical to prepare for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate the effects of disasters in our communities.

Volunteers can play a significant role in helping to rebuild lives and communities. It is important that volunteers are given meaningful and constructive opportunities to serve, while not overwhelming the affected community during the response and recovery. UServeUtah works to help local jurisdictions plan for coordination of spontaneous and unaffiliated volunteers during disaster recovery efforts.

In the event of a disaster which escalates to the state level, UServeUtah is activated and serves on the State Emergency Response Team (SERT) and is the lead in coordinating volunteer and donations management statewide. UServeUtah also acts as the liaison with the Corporation for National and Community Service to call upon National Service resources such as AmeriCorps NCCC (National Civilian Community Corps) and FEMA Corps members for on-ground support.